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**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING  
ON LRB 2282**

**Before the Committee on Small Business and Economic Development  
July 27, 1999**

Good morning, Chairperson Seratti and members of the committee.

I am Cletus Hansen, Administrator of the Division of Business Licensure and Regulation in the Department of Regulation and Licensing. I am testifying to inform you that the Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Auctioneer Board requested the introduction of LRB 2282 and they both support it.

As you can see, LRB 2282 is a very simple proposal that would permit the Department of Regulation and Licensing to promulgate rules to permit Wisconsin auctioneers to abbreviate the statutory phrase "registered Wisconsin auctioneer." Since the phrase in the current statutes is in quotations, the Department and others have concluded that the Department does not have the authority to promulgate rules that would permit auctioneers to use an acceptable abbreviation. In fact, when the Department sent proposed revisions of the advertising rules to the Rules Clearinghouse last year, the Clearinghouse reviewer questioned a provision that would have permitted the use of one or other abbreviation.

The Department of Regulation and Licensing reviewed the auctioneer advertising requirements during the past year and repealed or amended provisions that are not needed for adequate consumer protection and that were unduly costly for auctioneers. For example, requirements relating to the auctioneer's address and telephone number were repealed. The Auctioneer Board agreed that some of the requirements that it had recommended in 1995 were no longer necessary. Registered auctioneers were also voicing the same opinion and objected to the cost of unnecessary lines of advertising. They were also frequently abbreviated "registered Wisconsin auctioneer." The Department and the Board would not object to the use of an abbreviation, as long as the public can understand what it means.

We urge you to support LRB 2282. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.